

THANK THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS STAFF

(Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to thank the incredible hard work of our staff. In particular, I would like to single out Angela Ellard, our chief trade counsel and staff director of the Ways and Means trade staff; Stephen Claeys, our trade counsel; Geoffrey Antell, our trade counsel; Neena Shenai, our trade counsel; Nasim Deylami, our trade counsel; Casey Higgins, our trade counsel; and Paul Guaglianone, our legislative assistant.

If it weren't for the late nights, hard work of our hard-working, dedicated staff that go all too often unrecognized around here, this effort would not have been possible. I just want to say from the bottom of my heart how appreciative I am for their dedication and hard work.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF BURNEY STARKS

(Ms. MCSALLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Burney Starks, a man who was beloved by many in southern Arizona and who recently, suddenly passed away.

Burney dedicated his life to service as an Army veteran, a school counselor, and drop-out prevention specialist for the Tucson Unified School District. He played football for the University of Arizona and graduated from the U of A with honors.

Southern Arizonans will remember his incredible singing voice, his love for Motown and karaoke, and his active involvement in the community. He was a lead organizer for the Juneteenth Festival, and he was involved in many local organizations, including the Tucson Boys Choir, Tucson MLK Celebration Committee, and the Warrior Alumni Foundation.

He had a passion for helping others succeed and a unique gift for bringing out their best. I had the distinct pleasure of seeing Burney a few weeks ago on Memorial Day before he died. He was as lighthearted and dynamic as ever.

His smile and laughter will be missed by many, but no doubt his spirit will live on through the countless lives he touched during his life.

DETERMINING A PATH FORWARD

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of hours, we had the opportunity to discuss some impor-

tant issues that, as they were framed, many Americans might not understand. They are called trade issues or trade legislation to discuss the interactions between the United States and its future world trading partners.

No vote here should be maligned. When I stand here to emphasize that whatever the ultimate results are, if these bills do not generate into actual jobs for our local districts, then we have all failed.

That is the question for this Congress and that is the question for those who are working so intently and for those of us who raise the question whether jobs are created. And we will only move forward if we can determine a pathway of a structure that actually addresses the question of documented jobs, nonlost jobs or substituting jobs for the American people.

Trade, yes, it is business. But it is also the business of the American people and the constituents of the 18th Congressional District in areas like Fifth Ward and southeast and South Park and Acres Home and Independence Heights. It is a question of whether or not jobs are created.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to that answer being answered as "yes."

NATIONAL GUARDSMAN FLORICH BURIAL AT ARLINGTON NA- TIONAL CEMETERY

(Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, every once in a while, this place works. Recently, we had a National Guardsman, Sergeant Florich, who perished along with a number of U.S. marines in the Gulf of Mexico as their Black Hawk went down.

The Secretary of the Army is granted the authority to grant exemptions to allow these heroes to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Unfortunately, the initial decision by the Army was to reject Sergeant Florich's burial request and that of his family. He was a fourth-generation Armed Forces military man serving our country.

Just today, Secretary McHugh reversed that decision. Along with the support of 120 Members of this body, on both the Republican and Democrat side, they all came together and asked the Secretary to review the decision.

I want to thank the Members of this House, Republican and Democrat, Members that I want to ask that you all continue to keep the Florich family in your prayers as his wife is about to deliver their new child.

Thanks again to the Members, Mr. Speaker.

MARITIME NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the end of Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

In my region, the Pacific Ocean was and is central to Native American communities. It also gave rise to a proud maritime tradition along our coast. Entire industries sprang up and, for generations, folks have made a good living as fishermen, boat builders, dock workers, and servicemembers.

The Pacific is a place teaming with a diverse life that we ought to protect for future generations. If we want to protect our natural resources for our children, it is time to cherish our past and protect our future.

With that in mind, I will soon introduce the Maritime National Heritage Act. This legislation would designate the first and only heritage area in the country focused on maritime heritage. It would give Washington State greater access to resources to protect lighthouses, vessels, and other landmarks that contribute to the history and who we are in Washington State.

This bill is a good way to remind folks what our oceans mean to us and why they are so vital.

TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY OUT THE REPLACE- MENT OF THE EXISTING MED- ICAL CENTER OF THE DEPART- MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN DENVER, COLORADO

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 1568) to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object, although I don't object.

I just want to thank my friend from Colorado, the authorizing committee, and the appropriators for providing some time through the end of the fiscal year. It gives the Army Corps of Engineers, the VA, and the contractor an opportunity to continue construction of our big VA Medical Center in Colorado. We still have a long-term solution that has to be resolved, but this gives everybody some breathing room to get that done.

With that, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows: